

Appl. No. 09/841,421  
Amdt. dated February 4, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of November 5, 2003

**Remarks**

Amendments have been made to the specification. Specifically, paragraphs 30, 31, and 34 have been amended to more distinctly point out the invention. No new matter is added by this amendment.

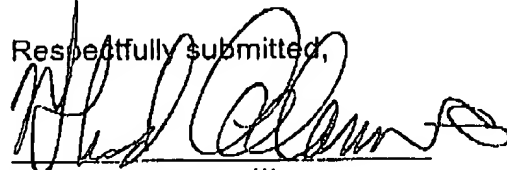
Claims 27, 18, 22, 23, 24, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillard (GB 2,354,286) in view of Kindell (5,979,750). Claims 17 and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillard (GB 2,354,286) in view of Kindell (5,979,750) and further in view of Plunkett et al. (WO 97/12186) and Evers (2,829,820). These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the present amendment.

Independent claim 27 has been amended to incorporate "a mechanism which is engaged when the door is in its fully closed position whereby every time the mechanism is re-engaged a signal is sent to a controller of the locking system, causing cancellation of the code as well as automatic locking of the door." The Examiner has indicated on page 2 of the Office Action that the incorporation of this language would give merit to the applicant's prior arguments. Thus, Gillard in view of Kindell would not render claim 27 unpatentable. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 17-25 depend from independent claim 27 and are thus believed to be allowable for the reasons stated above.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 17-25 and 27 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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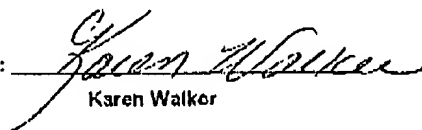
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Karen Walker